

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUANDA 00310 01 OF 02 251253Z

46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 NIC-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 SCA-01 PC-01

SAM-01 /085 W

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R 250800Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3350

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUANDA 0310

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITUATION IN CENTRAL ANGOLA: FNLA GAINS IN-
FLUENCE

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. SUMMARY: ALL THREE MOVEMENTS ARE VERY ACTIVE POLITICALLY
AND MILITARILY IN CENTRAL ANGOLA. UNITA HAS THE PREPONDERANCE
OF POPULAR SUPPORT BUT IT IS BEING PRESSED HARD BY FNLA AND IS
CONCERNED WITH A POTENTIAL GROUND SWELL OF SUPPORT FOR CIPENDA.
MOST OBSERVERS THINK UNITA WILL OVERCOME FNLA'S MONEY AND
ORGANIZATION, AS WELL AS CHIPENDA'S POTENTIAL DRAWING POWER, AND
KEEP THE ALL-IMPORTANT SUPPORT OF THE MASS OF OVIMBUNDOS ON ITS
SIDE,
BUT WE FEEL FNLA/CHIPENDA MAY RETAIN AN IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF
OVIMBUNDO SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 LUANDA 00310 01 OF 02 251253Z

2. A CONGEN OFFICER MADE A VISIT TO NOVA LISBOA WHERE HE MET

WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVERAL US RELIGIOUS MISSIONS IN THE CENTRAL PLATEAU AREA. HE ALSO SPOKE WITH POLITICAL AND MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITA AND LOCAL WHITE BUSINESSMEN. THERE WAS A REMARKABLE CONSENSUS AMONG THESE DISPARATE GROUPS AS TO THE PRESENT SITUATION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMATION OF THE OPINIONS OF THESE OBSERVERS.

3. UNITA HAS THE PREPONDERANCE OF SUPPORT AMONG THE OVIMBUNDO PEOPLE, AS WELL AS AMONG THE CHOCKWEE, THE HERRERA AND OTHER SMALLER TRIBES. THIS IS A DEEPLY ROOTED ETHNIC SUPPORT WHICH, PARADOXICALLY, FNLA IS SURMOUNTING BY DIRT OF A BETTER ORGANIZATION AND WELL PLACED BRIBES. ALL SOURCES ADMITTED THAT FNLA WAS MAKING SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES AMONG THE MASSES IN THIS REGION, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE IT CONCENTRATES ITS EFFORTS UPON THE TRIBAL LEADERSHIP, THE SOBA, AND HIS COUNSELLORS, WHO CAN BE COUNTED UPON TO INSTRUCT THEIR VILLAGERS ON WHOM TO SUPPORT. THE LEADERSHIP IS BEING WON OVER IN BEST WARD HEELER TRADITION - A BICYCLE HERE, A FEW HUNDRED DOLLARS THERE SEEMS TO BE THE GOING PRICE FOR A SOBA. UNITA IS RIGHTEOUSLY INCENSED BY THIS BEHAVIOUR BUT BUSINESSMEN HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT IF UNITA HAD THE MONEY IT WOULD FOLLOW SUIT. SIGNIFICANTLY, NONE OF THE OBSERVERS THINK THAT FNLA CAN HOLD THIS SUPPORT THROUGH THE ELECTIONS. THEY FEEL THAT THE ETHNIC FACTOR WILL COME TO THE FORE DURING A CAMPAIGN AND THAT THE SOBAS WILL BACK THEIR FELLOW OVIMBUNDO, SAVIMBI.

4. THE NAME OF CHIPENDA IS WELL KNOWN IN THE CENTRAL REGION. DANIEL CHIPENDA'S FATHER WAS THE RESPECTED HEAD OF DONDI MISSION WHERE SAVIMBI AND A GREAT NUMBER OF HIS CADRE WERE SCHOOLED AND CHIPENDA HIMSELF BENEFITS FROM FAME AS BOTH A SUCCESSFUL ATHLETE AND A SOLDIER. NEVERTHELESS, NONE OF THE SOURCES EXPECTED HIM TO BE ABLE TO TRANSLATE THE RECOGNITION FACTOR INTO POPULAR SUPPORT THAT COULD BE TRANSFERABLE TO FNLA AT ELECTION TIME. ALL FEEL THAT WHEN FORCED TO CHOOSE THE MASSES WILL VOTE ETHNICALLY AND CHIPENDA WILL BE SEEN AS AN ADJUNCT OF A BACONGO-BASED FNLA. WERE HE RUNNING ALONE, HOWEVER, HE COULD CONCEIVABLY SWING MANY PEOPLE TO HIS SIDE.

5. MPLA HAS NOT HAD NOTABLE SUCCESS IN THE CENTRAL REGION. IT DOES HAVE THE SUPPORT OF SOME OF THE EDUCATED BLACKS, WHITES

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PAGE 03 LUANDA 00310 01 OF 02 251253Z

AND MESTICOES, AND HAS MANAGED TO SWING THE OCCASIONAL VILLAGE OVER TO ITS SIDE WITH THE SAME TACTICS USED BY FNLA BUT IT LACKS FNLA'S ORGANIZATIONAL BASE AND MONEY.

6. THERE HAVE ONLY BEEN ONE OR TWO INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE IN CENTRAL ANGOLA, ALTHOUGH THE MISSIONARIES TELL OF WIDE-SPREAD BAD FEELINGS AND TAUNTS AMONG THE UBIQUITOUS ARMED DELEGATIONS. ALL THREE MOVEMENTS, AS WELL AS CHIPENDA, HAVE

ARMED FORCES IN NOVA LISBOA AND SPREAD ALL OVER THE AREA.
THE INTEGRATED ARMY HAS NOT YET BEEN INSTITUTED IN THIS AREA
AND NO MIXED PATROLS WERE SEEN. THE SEIGE ATMOSPHERE ONE
NOTES IN LUANDA IS ABSENT, NOR ARE RACIAL TENSIONS A PROBLEM.

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PAGE 01 LUANDA 00310 02 OF 02 251429Z

46

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LUANDA 0310

7. NOVA LISBOA IS A THRIVING, FAST GROWING SMALL CITY AND
MOST WHITES HERE WANT TO REMAIN. ABOUT HALF OF ANGOLA'S
WHITE POPULATION LIVES IN THE CENTRAL PLATEAU REGION AND
OUR SOURCES HAVE NOT NOTED A SIGNIFICANT EXODUS OF WHITES,
ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE WELL-TO-DO HAVE SENT THEIR FAMILIES OFF
TO LISBON FOR SAFETY UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS. WHITE BUSINESSMEN
GENERALLY GIVE MONEY TO ALL THREE MOVEMENTS, BUT MOST PREFER
SAVIMBI BECAUSE OF HIS MORE MODERATE ECONOMIC AND RACIAL POSITIONS.

8. THE CRITICAL QUESTION IS WHICH MOVEMENT WILL
CONTROL THE VOTES OF THE MASS OF PEOPLE ON THE PLATEAU. OUR
SOURCES ADMIT TO FNLA INROADS EVEN BEFORE CHIPENDA'S PRESENCE
IS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, BUT THEY FEEL ETHNIC PRESSURES WILL
OVERCOME THIS EARLY LEAD. WE ARE IN NO POSITION TO JUDGE THE
FUTURE ATTITUDES OF THE SOBAS AND PEOPLE BUT WE DO FEEL

THAT NOW THAT FNLA/CHIPENDA HAVE MADE INROADS IN THE AREA
THEY HAVE A CHANCE TO GAIN AND HOLD SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT
THERE. FNLA, USING CHIPENDA AND BACKED BY A WELL FUNDED
ORGANIZATION THAT KEEPS UP ITS BRIBES THROUGH THE ELECTION
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PAGE 02 LUANDA 00310 02 OF 02 251429Z

WOULD GIVE THE SOBAS A PUBLIC EXCUSE FOR BACKING FNLA,
AS WELL AS A SOLID PRIVATE INCENTIVE.
KILLORAN

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